

R E V I E W.

Thursday, May 14. 1713.

I Know it is expected I should enter upon the the Subject of the Treaty of Commerce, which is now concluded with *France*; and right or wrong, some People will have it that I shall justify and defend it: One immediate Answer I shall give to those People, is, That I shall not Imitate so much what I Condemn in them, (*viz.*) To judge before I hear; for the Truth is I have not yet seen, nor do I know what this Treaty contains.

However, I must still boldly affirm to you all, let the Peace be what it will, and the Treaty of Commerce be what it will, it is much in our Power to make both of them better or worse to our selves, as we please to manage things among one another: No doubt but a Nation divided, a People raging against one-another, a Spirit of Discontent and Jealousy may damp Trade, sink Credit, discourage Foreign Commerce, and check Manufactures, in spite of the Conditions of the Treaty, and so we may make the Peace as bad to us, *if we please*, as the War. I am sorry to see that there are any among us inclin'd to have it so: Upon their own Heads be the Injury to their native Country, and may they live to see and repent of it.

On the other hand, I can very hardly be perswaded to believe but the Peace, let it be as bad as you please to call it, may be made, *if we please*, less hurtful to us than otherwise we pretend to fear, or say it will be: Peace is a thing of such a Nature to a Trading Nation, *like this*, that it cannot be, but we shall improve Commerce by it; nay, tho' all the empty Surmises some People form in their Imagination, were true; let *France* and *Spain* be as Formidable, as United, as Unanimous as you can suggest, give us but Peace we will have Trade, and that more Trade than any other Nation under Heaven.

I hear many are angry at what I have said, that the *French* have not Wooll enough to fall into our Manufactures, and that the *Spaniards* cannot support their own Trade without us: I know I shall always have the Anger of those that cannot answer me; but let them enter into the Matter of Fact: To be

Angry, is not to *Argue*, but to give up the Argument; let them answer these few Questions, and then let them be as Angry as they please; but first, I say, let them answer,

1. Where is the Wooll, and in what part of *France*; what the Quantity, and how long have they had it?

If they had this Wooll before the War, why did they not make Manufactures then? And if since the War, how came they by it?

2. When was the time that the *French* supplied their own demand of Woollen Manufactures, and bought none from us?

If then they cannot supply themselves, how should they supply the Spaniards?

3. What Nation under the Sun can take off the Growth of *Spain*, but the *English*? Where can they sell their Wine, Oil, Oranges and Lemmons, their Raisins of the Sun, and Raisins of *Malaga*, Almonds, &c. and how can they carry on their Home Trade, if they cannot vend the Produce of their own Country?

When the angry Gentlemen have answered these Questions, they may have some Authority for what they say; but till they do, they cannot appear with any Face in the Dispute: As to their Anger, like a Southerly Wind, it comes with a Gust, and goes away in a Fog, no Man of Sense regards it.

The Case is clear, let the Government but see the Treaty of Peace fairly executed, (*viz.*) That the *French* effectually and entirely evacuate *America*; that the Trade be establish'd upon the same Foot that it was in the time of King *Charles II. of Spain*, (*viz.*)

1. That no *European* Nations but the *Spaniards* be permitted to Trade to *New Spain*. And, 2. That the *English* be subjected to no inequalities in *Spain*, as to Prohibition or Imposition. I say, let this be compleatly and punctually Executed, and I repeat it again, *France* is not able to hurt us in the *Spanish* Trade.

I know we are accosted in this, with some Peoples Passions, who tell us, *but it is all upon their own Authority*, That the *French* will never quit *America*, and will never compleatly execute the Treaty, will never

never restore the *Spanish* Trade to its former Channel, but will always carry on a separate and secret Trade there, to our Ruin.

I'll be very fair to these Gentlemen — when I see that, and the *British* Court acquiesces with suffering the *French* to break the Articles now made, remain in *America*, interrupt the course of the *Spanish* Trade, and possess unequal or unusual Privileges in the said *Spanish* Trade: Then I'll say of the *British* Ministry all that they say of them; but at present this difference will remain between these People, and are, (*viz.*) That these Men beg the Question, affirm *it will be so*, and fall on the Ministry *now* upon the Presumption; (like the Woman that whipt her Boy before-hand, because, *as she said*, he would go to the Fair) tho' the Boy had no such design; whereas I am willing to see the thing *prov'd first*; which is the most Christian Method, let the most impartial part of the World judge.

If the present Ministry have made a Treaty, and taken no Measures to have that Treaty executed, let them look to that, for my part I am not for making the Ministry such a sort of weak Things, *till I see it*. This would be to have made no Peace at all; it would be a Bargain with no valuable Consideration, and in Equity would be void; nay, the Ministry would be immediately obliged, under whatever Disadvantages, to renew the War; *in short*, such a thing cannot, with any colour of Reason, be suggested, unless there were some manifest Evidence of the Fact, which time will soon discover; nay, the *Spaniards* themselves will soon discover it, for all the World knows how jealous the Chamber of Commerce, or Consulate of *Sevil*, are in that Case, not of the *French* alone, but of all the *European* Nations.

All therefore that can be said in this Case, is mere Suggestion, mere Malecontent Surmises, and can have no Foundation but in National Jealousies, which cannot be allowed to be good Argument. The Fact is plain, the *Spanish* Trade must return into its former Channel, the *French* cannot interrupt it without an immediate Rupture and Breach of Articles, and if they do it not by that; as to all their Encroachments upon us in the *Spanish* Trade, by mere Trade, Industry, application to Manufactures, and the like, we may cheerfully dese them; it is very clear that they can do us no hurt.

I am the more particular in mentioning this Case because I see such a Popular use made of this Delusion to alarm us at the Consequences of the Peace in our *Spanish* Trade; and I wish I could not say, that the People who are loudest in this Clamour, evidently may professedly calculate it for Party Ends — How weak their Party Cause must be, if supported in other Parts with no better Arguments than these, is easy to guess. If it were true, that the *French* and *Spaniards* were to joyn in wresting the *Spanish* Trade out of our Hands, and were able to do it, if join'd I would allow it were a very good Objection against the Peace; but will the Gentlemen be willing we should judge of the Validity of the rest of their Objections by the weight of this? If so, a sorry Logician may overthrow them.

It is evident, I think, that the *French* will not have the least Advantage, I mean over our Trade only, in Matters of Commerce, by their Union with *Spain*, which they had not before; (*viz.*) in the Days of King *Charles II.* the *Spaniards* cannot give it them without ruining themselves; nor the *French* accept it of them to the least Advantage.

Let no Man therefore slack his Hand in Trade for fear of the Disadvantages of Trade in *Spain*, by this Peace: This is one way, I say, by which we may make the Peace of less Advantage to us, than it really is; and this way you may lead other Nations by the Hand into your Trade. There are other ways how you may make a good Peace, if it be so; bad in its Consequences; but I wave them till I see you go on a little farther.

There are, however, on the other Hand, some Trades in *Britain*, or some Branches of Trade I should rather call them, which may suffer by the Peace; and indeed some parts of our Trade are declining, by the mere Consequence of things, let the Treaty of Commerce be what it will; and on these I shall speak in their course; such as the *Virginia* Trade, the Distilling Trade, and the *Portuguese* Wine Trade, &c. And yet, tho' the Peace may affect these Trades, yet they do not suffer, by reason of the goodness or badness of the Conditions, but merely by the nature of the thing, as will appear at large in the farther Discouring upon the Peace and Commerce now Establish'd.